

TWO ROUGH RIDERS RESIGN

MAJOR LLEWELLYN AND HIS
SON RETIRE.

Upshot of a Row Over Indictment of Cleveland H. Dodge and Others in New Mexico—Llewellyn to Have Another Office.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—An announcement was made at the White House this evening that two former Rough Riders, Major William H. H. Llewellyn, United States District Attorney for the Territory of New Mexico, and his son, Morgan Llewellyn, Jr., lawyer-general of that Territory, would resign their offices. Major Llewellyn, it was announced, would be appointed to another Federal office. Both resignations will take effect on January 1.

The announcement that the two Llewellyns had resigned came immediately after a luncheon at the White House at which the President's guests were Major Llewellyn, Gov. George Curry of New Mexico, a former Rough Rider, Henry H. Hoyt, a soldier general of the United States; Capt. David J. Leahy, a former Rough Rider, who was assistant to Major Llewellyn as district attorney; Rear Admiral Cowles, President Roosevelt's brother-in-law, and John A. Steiwer of New York.

This luncheon was the concluding feature of the first phase of a big political and judicial mixup in New Mexico. Late this afternoon Solicitor-General Hoyt, Gov. Curry, Major Llewellyn and Capt. Leahy left Washington for Santa Fe to take part in the second phase.

Ormsby McHarg of the Department of Justice went on the same train. Mr. McHarg is not on speaking terms with several members of the other party. Solicitor-General Hoyt is going to Santa Fe as the special commissioner of President Roosevelt.

Capt. Leahy will be appointed District Attorney to succeed Major Llewellyn. Last Monday A. B. Fell resigned from the office of Attorney-General of that Territory and the next day Leahy was appointed to succeed him, but did not qualify. As a result of White House conferences since, Leahy will become District Attorney and F. W. Clancy will be appointed Attorney-General.

No explanation of the reasons for the resignation of the two Llewellyns was forthcoming from the White House, but behind the retirement of these former Rough Riders is an interesting story. The story had its beginning in reports that Phelps, Dodge & Co. of New York, who had put several millions of dollars in New Mexico in the development of mines, the establishment of towns and the building of railroads, had been engaged in enterprises which came in conflict with the Government land laws.

Without notice to Gov. Curry or District Attorney Llewellyn, Attorney-General Bonaparte sent Ormsby McHarg and E. Payson Gordon to New Mexico to look into the allegations. Mr. Gordon is a partner in the Department of Justice, and Mr. McHarg is a special agent of that Department.

Mr. Gordon and Mr. McHarg reported to Washington that District Attorney Llewellyn did not cooperate with them in the investigation and prosecution of alleged land frauds. Ultimately Mr. McHarg got Major Llewellyn to turn over the Federal Grand Jury to him, and as a result of Mr. McHarg's efforts the Grand Jury returned nineteen indictments.

Gov. Curry went away from Santa Fe about this time, but before going directed the territorial officials to render every assistance to McHarg and Gordon. There was then in the territorial treasury about \$10,000 the ownership of which was in dispute. It had belonged to a private company, but there were contentions that it rightfully belonged to the territorial government. While Gov. Curry was away Mr. McHarg, it is alleged, wrote to territorial officials to distribute this money among public institutions of the Territory.

When Curry returned to Santa Fe he was fighting mad over what McHarg was said to have done. He sent word to President Roosevelt that McHarg had attempted to usurp the functions of Governor and threatened to resign his office if McHarg were not recalled.

President Roosevelt asked Gov. Curry to come to Washington. When he got here he told the President that there wasn't any justification for most of the indictments that McHarg had obtained. McHarg, he charged, was trying to make a record as a prosecutor that would give him a great reputation.

From Gov. Curry and District Attorney Llewellyn, who accompanied Curry to Washington, the President learned that one of those who had been indicted in Santa Fe was Cleveland H. Dodge of New York. Mr. Dodge was a lifelong friend of Mr. Roosevelt. They had been classmates at Harvard, and in one of his speeches the President had held up Mr. Dodge as an example of the highest type of man. The President had heard that Mr. Dodge had been in Washington on several occasions and wondered why his old classmate had not called at the White House. The story of the indictment explained why Mr. Dodge had remained away.

Mr. Roosevelt refused to believe that Mr. Dodge had been a land grafter, and to show his confidence in his friend he had Mr. Dodge at luncheon at the White House last Tuesday, where he heard Mr. Dodge's side of the story. Mr. Dodge, he learned, had never been in New Mexico.

As a result of a personal inquiry into the circumstances connected with the nineteen indictments the President directed Solicitor-General Hoyt to go to Santa Fe. Attorney-General Bonaparte, stuck by Mr. McHarg, however, and Mr. McHarg will be on the ground as the direct representative of his own and the Attorney-General's interests.

It is understood that as a result of these several conferences held in Washington this week all except three or four of the nineteen indictments will be dismissed. The Federal court will begin its sessions at Santa Fe on November 28, and it is said that the motions to dismiss will be made then.

The reported intention to dismiss the indictments seems to indicate that the President is satisfied that District Attorney Llewellyn has not been derelict in his duty.

MR. MORGAN RETURNS.

His Visit to the White House Explained in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—J. P. Morgan and President George F. Baker of the First National Bank of New York, who had conferred with President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou last night, returned to New York this evening, leaving Washington at 5 o'clock on a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad train. Just before leaving Mr. Morgan called at the office of Secretary Cortelyou in the Treasury Building and had a conversation with him. Earlier in the day Mr. Baker saw Mr. Cortelyou and Comptroller of the Currency Ridgely. Senator Elkins of West Virginia called on Mr. Baker this morning and said afterward that his visit was to compliment Mr. Baker on the great work done by Mr. Morgan and himself in the financial crisis.

"They are both convinced that the worst has passed," said Senator Elkins. No authoritative account of what occurred at the interviews between the President and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Baker and between Secretary Cortelyou and the New York bankers was given here to-day, but it was explained in a trustworthy quarter that the conferences had to do mainly with the efforts to distribute currency in sections of the country where there are not enough funds to move the crops. Some New York banks, it was said, were showing a disposition to assist, and considerable money had been sent from New York to the West and South. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Baker had done much to aid the country generally, it was explained, and there was a feeling of gratification in the Administration over that course.

The train bringing Mr. Morgan and Mr. Baker was fifteen minutes late getting here. Mr. Morgan had nothing to say of his visit, and Mr. Baker merely said that the trip and everything connected with it had been eminently satisfactory.

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DEPEW'S AUTO HELD UP.

Senator Goes to the Tenderloin Police Station and Bails Out His Chauffeur.

Senator Depew on his way to the theatre last night was held up at Thirty-third street and Broadway by Policemen Duane of the traffic squad, who decided that the senator's automobile had exceeded the legal rate of speed. In the automobile with Senator Depew were his wife, his son Buster and his niece, Miss Pauline. Duane told the chauffeur, Irving T. Donahue, of 147 West Sixty-sixth street, to drive around to the Tenderloin police station, but relented under the senator's soft persuasion and decided to allow the man to drive first to the theatre so that the party might be in time for the first act.

The ladies and Dr. Depew's son got out at the theatre, but the senator stayed in the machine and went around to the police station to give bail. Lieut. Gilhooly, who had the desk, recognized the senator, and once and was delighted when the visitor reached over the rail and shook him warmly by the hand.

Sensor Depew gave his house at 27 West Fifty-fourth street as security for the bail bond, fixing the value nominally at \$10,000. While this was going on Acting Captain Barney Keeler came out of his room. There was another round of handshaking and then the senator was invited into the captain's room. He stayed for half an hour and the continued laughter was explained by one of the reserves who said:

"The captain, he always was the polite man." When Senator Depew got through with the captain he asked to see the policeman who had made the arrest. Duane was in the cutoff northeast of Taylor on the road from Kansas City to Lincoln.

HOFENAU BROUGHT TO BOOK.

Kaiser Orders Investigation of Charges by Editor Harden.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. BERLIN, Nov. 23.—The Kaiser has directed the assembling of a military court of honor to investigate the charges made against Count Wilhelm von Hofenau, former commander of the Kaiser's bodyguard and subsequently General and commander of a brigade.

The charges, that are to be investigated are those which were raised in the course of Count von Moltke's libel case against Maximilian Harden, editor of *Zukunft*. A preliminary inquiry into the truth of the charges has been begun already.

HARRIMAN LINES TO RESUME.

Construction Work, Stopped by Financial Crisis, Starts Up on Dec. 1.

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 23.—Construction work on the Harlan system, which was discontinued when the present financial flurry began, will be resumed all along the line on December 1, when thousands of workmen will be taken back.

The Lane cutoff just west of Omaha, the heaviest piece of construction work on the system, will be rushed to completion before cold weather prevents further work. The cutoff will be finished by January. Work on the double tracking of the main line will not be undertaken until spring on account of inability to secure the steel rails.

Work on the main line between Cheyenne and Denver will be resumed, as will work on the cutoff northwest of Taylor on the road from Kansas City to Lincoln.

When the cold weather prevents further work on the Union Pacific the workmen will be moved to the Coast and the rebuilding of the Coast line between San Francisco and Los Angeles will begin.

RUSSIA PAYS JAPAN.

War Debt Settled in London With a Draft for Twenty-four Millions.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—A draft for \$24,302,200 was delivered to-day to the Japanese Ambassador by the Russian Legation here. It represents the balance due Japan for the maintenance of Russian prisoners of war and practically settles all outstanding accounts between the two nations.

Japan's bill against Russia for maintenance of prisoners originally was about \$75,000,000. As a partial setoff Russia has a bill of about \$10,000,000 for maintenance of Japanese prisoners.

Negotiations for their payment have been in progress since the middle of last year.

WOMAN ENDS DOUBLE LIFE

NEW ROCHELLE CRIME REVEALS
STRANGE IMPERSONATION.

Mrs. N. M. Smith, Who Killed Her Husband, Set Fire to Their Home and Shot Himself, Pined for Years as Grace Bulkeley—Former Husband Died of Poison.

A woman whose mad fancies made her live under a name that was not hers and suffer sorrows that had never been a part of her life ended all her fantasies in the early hours of yesterday morning by shooting her husband and then slaying herself after setting fire to their home at 80 Woodland avenue, New Rochelle.

This was Mrs. Nicholas M. Smith, the wife of nine months of a salesman employed by the firm of Frederick Victor & Achels, 66 Leonard street. It was as Grace Bulkeley Smith, the daughter of the late Gen. William H. Bulkeley, once Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut, and the niece of United States Senator Morgan G. Bulkeley, that this woman lived in her husband's eyes and in the eyes of the few friends in New Rochelle who knew her. It was as Grace Bulkeley Smith that her body was removed to the Morgue and her case passed upon by the Coroner of Westchester county.

Then within twelve hours after she had murdered her husband and turned the pistol on herself the real Grace Bulkeley, only daughter of that name of the late Gen. William Bulkeley, now living as the wife of David Van Schaack in Hartford, came out with a denial of the dead woman's assumed identity. The very husband that Grace Bulkeley Smith had claimed to have once been hers and to have died in an insane asylum nine or ten years ago is the husband of the real daughter of Gen. William Bulkeley and is living.

Tragedy seems to have been the food of Mrs. Smith's thoughts. Her husband believed that his wife's first husband had died hopelessly insane after three years of wedded life and after a daughter had been born and had died. He also had been led to think that a second husband died a violent death before he had been married nine months, and that another child, the fruit of this marriage, had followed its father soon after.

Smith himself was shot through the head while he slept almost nine months to the day from the date when he made the woman who did it his wife. Besides saying that she was a daughter of the former Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut Mrs. Smith had said that she was his sole heir.

When the Coroner went through the woman's papers yesterday he found what purported to be a certified transcript from the minutes of the Probate Court of Hartford in the matter of the appointment of the estate of William H. Bulkeley. The amount of the estate going to the heirs was fixed at \$145,000.

Mrs. Smith had admitted to the doctor, and it is believed to her husband, that she was once insane and had been confined in an asylum. Very recently she suffered from fevers so badly that her hair had to be cut off, and she complained of great pains in her head and occasionally dropped into periods of irrationality.

If insane, Mrs. Smith reached the climax to her dementia on the night she sought death. For after she shot her husband she cunningly arranged to fire the house by laying a train of inflammable material in the cellar from two barrels of automobile oil. Then she set the spark to the tinder and went back upstairs to sit near the body of her husband until the flames should appear, and the house be blown to pieces.

The fire ate its way to her side and began to break through into her room when she answered the call of frightened policemen outside, lay down on a clean new bed and shot herself through the heart.

It was about 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning that Frank Storr, a private watchman who patrols the section of New Rochelle's best residences, heard a shot. He was standing then on Liberty street, about a block from the Smith home on Woodland avenue. The watchman could not locate the shot, but he went past the Smith home and around the block several times without becoming any the wiser.

Almost an hour later while Storr was passing the Smith residence again he saw a blaze in the cellar through the basement windows under the front porch. The watchman rapped on the pavement for assistance. Policemen Loeblin and the regular New Rochelle force, who also had heard the pistol shot an hour before that time, answered the watchman's signal, and together the two men ran up on the front porch and began storming at the door.

A front window on the right side of the porch above opened and a woman, dressed in her nightgown, put her head and shoulders out. The watchman saw the light strike the ruddy hair of Mrs. Smith and recognized her white face in the dim light.

"What is the matter down there?" she inquired in an even voice. "Your house is on fire," called the policeman. "Let us in."

Mrs. Smith's head disappeared and in less than a minute the two men heard a second shot. It sounded, deadened, from the room where but an instant before they had seen the white robed figure.

At the sound of the shot Storr, the watchman, rushed for the front door and the policeman ran to the firebox on a corner two blocks away. Smoke was pouring out of the windows of the cellar by this time and seeping out of the claphouse from the front side of the house. Flame showed through the muck in the cellar.

Storr beat in the front windows of the parlor with his nightstick and attempted to climb in, but the smoke drove him back. Then he heard screams and saw a woman at the front window of the third floor. He was attempting to raise a ladder he had

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\$2,500,000 FROM ROCKEFELLER

Makes the Institute for Medical Research a Permanency.

The board of directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research announced yesterday a gift of \$2,500,000 from John D. Rockefeller, its founder. This gift insures the permanency of the institute. Mr. Rockefeller's previous gifts to the institute had amounted to \$1,200,000.

The directors of the institute were notified of the gift in a letter from Mr. Rockefeller which reached them last Thursday. In this letter Mr. Rockefeller expressed a high appreciation of the work that the institute has accomplished since the opening in 1901. He told the directors that the \$2,500,000 would be in high class securities and that these would be turned over as soon as the institute obtains a charter.

The gift is to be used as an endowment fund, and it is estimated that the proceeds from it will be amply sufficient to carry on the research work. Mr. Rockefeller put no restrictions on the directors in regard to the use of the income, leaving it entirely to their discretion and judgment.

The institute has been entirely supported by Mr. Rockefeller from the day that it was founded. The ground on which its buildings stand at Avenue A and Sixty-fourth street was given by him.

Recent efforts in the institute have been directed toward discovering a cure for cerebral spinal meningitis. Dr. Simon Flexner spent a year abroad in this research work. Dr. Lull, secretary of the board of directors, and last night that the institute had already done much in researches in regard to tuberculosis, cancer and other diseases.

"We started with ten physicians," said he, "besides those making up the board of directors. To-day there is a staff of twenty-four physicians and they are all busy."

WAR BALLOON SAILS 180 MILES.

La Patrie Travels to Verdun to Guard the Franco-German Frontier.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Nov. 23.—The dirigible military balloon La Patrie sailed to-day to Verdun. It left at 8:45 and arrived at 3:45.

Henceforth it will be attached to the fortress of Verdun, which is opposite Metz. Three officers and two mechanics formed the crew.

Aeroplane enthusiasts have hoisted the dirigible balloon experimenters on their shoulders, calling them condescendingly balloonists. But to-day's performance of La Patrie is likely to silence the shouters of such terms.

The distance from La Patrie's former home at Chalais-Mendon to Verdun approximates 300 kilometers, or more than 180 miles, which the balloon travelled at the rate of practically twenty-five miles an hour without stopping to augment the gas supply. The Patrie's performance was the cause of great rejoicing on route and also in Paris, where it is hailed as proving the feasibility of aerial navigation.

The weather was far from pleasant, but the wind was light.

The greatest height reached by La Patrie was 1,000 yards, but generally she kept at a height of about 800 yards. She took up sixty-four gallons of fuel essence and consumed thirty-one. No ballast was used.

WASP RITES FOR BLUEJACKETS.

Gunboat Goes Up the Hudson on a Recruiting Expedition.

The gunboat Wasp sailed up the Hudson yesterday on a recruiting cruise that will keep her away until December 24. She stopped yesterday afternoon at Yonkers, where she will stay five days. She is commanded by Lieut. J. A. Campbell, Jr., who in September on a cruise of Long Island Sound persuaded seventy-one men to desert the blue of the navy. On her first trip, under command of Chief Boatswain Grogan in January, when she went up the Mississippi as far as Dubuque, Ia., she induced 300 men to join the service.

All that the men of the Wasp do is to put before the communities they touch the advantages and hardships of life aboard the ship. The men of the Wasp are distributed and placards and posters are sent to the postmasters of the places within five or ten miles of the town where the gunboat makes a landing, to be hung up in the post offices. The towns that the Wasp will take in on this cruise are Tarrytown, Nyack, Haverstraw, Peekskill, Highland Falls, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Catskill and Hudson.

25 LIVES LOST IN THE ALPS.

350 Other Bad Mishaps This Year—Growth of Foodstuffs.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—Official statistics just issued supply the death rate in 1907 due to misadventure in the Italian, Swiss and Austrian Alps. The number of lives lost was seventy-five, the majority being Swiss and Germans. Next came the British and after them the Italians.

The chief cause of the fatalities was foolhardiness, which is becoming more prevalent every year, in attempting difficult ascents without a guide and often even without a companion. Fourteen deaths were caused by attempts to gather flowers in dangerous localities. The number of accidents which are put down as grave but not fatal was 350.

As prophylactic measures the compilers of the statistics recommend international action by Switzerland, France, Italy and Austria to prohibit the ascent of dangerous mountains unless the climber is accompanied by a fully qualified and accredited guide.

PRIZE LOW SHOT FOR A DEER.

Belonged to John Hickey, Who Owns a Farm in Sullivan County.

MONTICELLO, N. Y., Nov. 23.—John Hickey, a New York man who owns a farm at Maplewood, Sullivan county, yesterday found the carcass of one of his prize coons concealed under a pile of brush and stones about a mile from his summer home. The animal, which was a mixture of other breeds, had been mistaken for a deer and shot through the heart, and the hunter had then covered up the carcass to conceal his crime.

The open season for hunting deer closed in Sullivan county on November 15, and it is estimated that over 200 coons were killed during the fifteen days. Mr. Hickey's farm is located in the heart of the deer country and many parties of hunters passed over his grounds daily. The animal was a valuable one and the owner is trying to find the man who did the shooting.

When in Washington, D. C., Stop at the Shoreham, leading fashionable hotel. Metropolitan Standard, Baltimore, American and European Plan, Ask.

WARNING TO OFFICEHOLDERS

PRESIDENT FORBIDS THEM TO
GO AS THIRD TERM DELEGATES.

Sends Letter to a Cabinet Officer Hinting That Violations of the Order Will Result in Dismissal—The Letter, Dated Nov. 19, Was Not Received Until the 23d.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—All the officers of the Administration, including several Cabinet members, who were saying yesterday that there had been no order issued by President Roosevelt forbidding Federal officeholders to work for his renomination or to accept election as Roosevelt delegates to the Republican national convention found out to-day that such an order had been issued. The order, which is in the form of a letter from the President, is dated November 19, but curiously enough it did not reach some at least to whom it was addressed until to-day. It is not known that the Postmaster of Washington is to make an investigation of the unusual delay in delivery of mail matter.

The Sun's correspondent was permitted to read one of these letters. It was written on White House note paper and was signed by President Roosevelt. No authorized copies of the communication were given to the press, but the following, which is a transcription of notes made immediately after reading it, is a substantially correct statement of what the President wrote:

MY DEAR — It has been called to my attention that certain officeholders under your Department have been proposing to attend election as delegates to the national convention with a view to advocating my renomination or proposing my endorsement at State conventions. This must not be. You will notify such officeholders as may be necessary that their acceptance of election as delegates for this purpose, or advocating such renomination, will be regarded as a serious violation of official propriety and will be dealt with accordingly.

The letter itself contains nothing that had not been known previously. It is construed as an expression of a desire on the part of the President that Federal officeholders must not go to the Republican national convention as members of State delegations, instructed to vote for the nomination of Mr. Roosevelt. That the order will be obeyed is not doubted here, and it is expected that one of its immediate effects will be the beginning of an active campaign among Federal officeholders, probably in the South, to have State conventions send unimpaired delegations to the national convention.

The success of these efforts will not be displeasing to the Administration, for as long as delegations are not instructed to vote for the President's nomination Mr. Roosevelt, according to what is said in Washington, will not be called on to make any further declaration of his intentions.

There is good reason to believe that the President is willing to have his opponents within the Republican party kept in a state of uncertainty as to his course as long a time as possible. Just that long, it is said by some of the President's friends, will the so-called "reactionaries" be prevented from concentrating their strength on a man who would be inclined to furnish a conservative administration.

BOY HUNTER SHOOT ANOTHER.

Then Hides and Cannot Be Found—It Was an Accident—Victim May Recover.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., Nov. 23.—While out hunting early this afternoon Louis Dayton Babbitt, the twelve-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton W. Babbitt of 10½ Clinton street, was shot through the left lung by William Leonard, 16 years old.

The boys, in company with Edward Sweeney, 12 years old, had shot a squirrel and Leonard was reloading the rifle while Babbitt was dancing about in glee, swinging the body of the squirrel about his head. In some manner the rifle was discharged and Babbitt was struck in the left breast.

Sweeney ran to the Alpton cottage, half a mile away, and found Dr. H. A. Henriques there. The physician took the injured boy home in his carriage. When the lad is in grave danger Dr. Henriques thinks he may recover.

Leonard, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Leonard of the Parker apartment house, on Speedwell avenue, has not been seen since the accident. It is thought by his parents, who with friends have scoured the woods in search of him, that the lad is afraid to come home and has hid.

The police are satisfied that the shooting was accidental and no warrant has been obtained for the boy's arrest.

SAVINGS BANK PAYS ALL COMERS.

The Empire City Takes Down the Bars—Another Harlem Bank to Open Monday.

The Empire City Savings Bank, in West 123rd street, which on October 24 informed its depositors that a month's notice would be required before deposits could be withdrawn their money in sums over \$50, began yesterday morning to pay all amounts on demand. The line of applicants was longer than on other Saturdays and when the bank closed for the day \$30,000 had been paid out.

Isaac A. Hopper, the president, said that the bank had expected to pay out \$100,000 yesterday and expressed surprise at the number of new accounts that were opened. The United States Exchange Bank, near 123rd street and Fifth avenue, which suspended, will reopen to-morrow morning. A notice of the suspension signed by the officers and a notice Examiner Skinner was posted on the door yesterday afternoon.

FIRED REVOLVER IN POCKET.

Rushmeyer Said He Was Dreaming About His Wife and Pulled the Trigger.

Henry Rushmeyer, a real estate dealer of 214 West 105th street, was arrested last night at Amsterdam avenue and 125th street for discharging a revolver. Rushmeyer held the weapon in the left pocket of his overcoat, aiming it to the ground, fired. Policemen Metz of the West 125th street station took him in tow.

"What did you fire the revolver for?" asked Lieut. Kauff in the station house. "Were you trying to kill yourself?" "No," answered Rushmeyer, laughing. "I was just dreaming about my wife. My hand was on the trigger and before I knew it the gun went off."

Detective McManus, standing by the side of Rushmeyer, smelled smoke and the officer's overcoat was discovered to be soiled.

FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER. Champagne, Wines or Game Juice. H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 128 Fulton St., New York.

TAFT GAINING WEIGHT.

Plays Bridge and Throws Snowballs on Trip Across Siberia.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN. IRTUTSK, Nov. 23.—On an uneventful journey through a pleasant but barren country Secretary Taft, pauses the hour in studying Philippine reports and playing bridge whist. He is gaining flesh, though he exercises at the stations snowballing, between times chatting familiarly with the Russian military and civil officials.

Major Slocum, the United States Military Attaché at St. Petersburg, will meet the party at Moscow. The czar will give Mr. Taft an audience on Tuesday.

ROUND THE WORLD WIRELESS.

Line to Connect Vancouver With Australia Already Planned.

VANCOUVER, Nov. 23.—F. J. Crows, who is in the employ of the Fiji Government and who was sent as special representative of the Colonial Office in London to report on the proposal to connect British Columbia with Australia by wireless, returned here to-day. He declares the proposition to be easily workable, and stations are now being erected at Fiji.

The biggest jump will be from Vancouver Island to Fanning Island. Thence the route will be to Samoa, Fiji, Ellis, New Zealand and finally Australia.

This will be an important link in the "round the world" wireless connection planned by the British Government. Cross also installed a wireless system at Honolulu for the United States Government.

MEATS TO BE CHEAPER.

Says an Armour Manager—Hogs Have Declined, Anyway.

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 23.—"There will be a further drop in the prices of provisions and meats next week," said R. C. Howe, manager of the Armour packing plant at South Omaha. "Hogs fell to-day to 4 cents, and the prospect for a rally in the price is unusually gloomy."

With the opening of next week the wholesale men and packers will quote a large decline in all packing house products and cold storage food supplies. The decline is already apparent in many lines. Eggs, butter, poultry and meat prices will fall under the general decline.

"The decline in the principal staples will not be as pronounced as in live stock, but will be noticeable, however."

Mr. Howe does not look for a return of higher markets on meats and live stock for some time.

DRIFTED WITH BROKEN SHAFT.

Spanish Steamer Buenos Aires Salvaged Off Porto Rican Coast.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

SAN JUAN, P. R., Nov. 23.—The Spanish American liner Buenos Aires, after leaving Ponce on November 11, broke her shaft and drifted about in the open sea under sail.

The steamer *Mansueta* picked her up and towed her into Mayaguez. Capt. Lewis and the crew of the *Mansueta* will receive a big salvage, as the Buenos Aires was carrying a heavy and valuable cargo.

SHERIFF AT HOTEL SEVERANCE.

Writ of Attachment Out—Place Recently Sold.

A deputy sheriff was on guard at the Hotel Severance, 218 West Ninety-fourth street, last night to see that none of the property of S. N. Severance & Son, original owners of the hotel, was carried away by creditors. The hotel was due to an attachment secured on Friday on a quantity of rugs and silverware in the hotel.

The hotel was sold at public auction on October 31. On November 18 Frederick H. Menger, the lessee, left the hotel in the hands of his brother-in-law, William V. Ulman, who had acted as his manager. The restaurant was closed up.

The interest on the first mortgage of \$240,000 held by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, amounting to \$15,000, falls due to-morrow, it was said at the hotel last night.

STEAMERS IN COLLISION.

Italian Vessel Helvetia Sunk Off Spanish Coast—Four Drowned.

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.